

and Group V, claims 20 and 21, is drawn to use of the apparatus of Group IV and classified in class 430, subclass 4.

The Examiner asserts that (i) the inventions of Groups I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice, (ii) the inventions of Groups I and III are related as process of making and product made, (iii) the inventions of Groups II and III are related as apparatus and product made, (iv) the inventions of Groups III and IV are related as product and process of use, and (v) the inventions of Groups IV and V are related as process and apparatus for its practice, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification such that the searches are not coextensive, requiring separate examination. These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that the inventions of Groups I-V are so closely related in the field of manufacturing calcium fluoride that a proper search of any of the claims would, of necessity, require a search of the others. Indeed, the Examiner has acknowledged that Groups I and II are related as process and apparatus. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims can be searched simultaneously, and that a duplicative search, with possibly inconsistent results, may occur if the restriction requirement is maintained.

Applicant further submits that any nominal burden placed upon the Examiner to search an additional subclass or two, necessary to determine the art relevant to Applicant's overall invention, is significantly outweighed by the public interest in not having to obtain and study several separate patents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering Applicant's invention. The alternative is to proceed with the filing of multiple

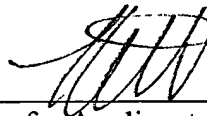
applications, each consisting of generally the same disclosure, and each being subjected to substantially the same search, perhaps by different Examiners on different occasions. This places an unnecessary burden on both the Patent and Trademark Office and on Applicant. In the interest of economy, for the Office, for the public-at-large and for Applicant, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested. Alternately, the Examiner is requested to recombined at least Groups I and II.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely claims 1-5, 14 and 15.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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